

perty or live. When this property (owned by and rented to whites) becomes vacant, the owners (in most instances) have refused to sell or rent to Negroes, though surrounded by them. This means that while they have the freedom to buy and live wherever they choose, the Negro does not even have the freedom to move into every place within the ghetto set up by the whites for him! And, of course, he cannot move into any house of his choice elsewhere, if that local area has in effect a restrictive covenant. We are constantly facing situations in employment where the prospective employer hides behind the hackneyed statement that if he hired a Negro, or a Nisei, or a Catholic, or a Jew, etc, ad infinitum, he would have mutiny among the rest of his employees. He is really saying that he will not give his employees the chance to prove how prejudiced or fearful he is. The pace-makers in such situations have usually been able to handle any isolated instances of such reactions satisfactorily, without any damage being done either to the physical plant or the morale or souls of the other employees! The anomaly of such situations is so often that, especially in the case of the Negro, some of those very same employees for whom the "fearful" employer feels such moral and social responsibility are members of "the despised race"! In his own smugness he is very certain that he knows "a Negro" when he sees him, when actually within his own "protected" group may be found one or more who are "passing" — "passing" by day and returning to their own at night, in order to be able to secure for themselves and their families the same basic opportunities and material needs as others who do not bear the burden of color have. One is struck with the ridiculousness of the racial situation in this country so often when he remembers that for many years in the South, for instance, white babies (in given situation) had Negro mothers for wet nurses, that often the cook in the most aristocratic white family in a town might be one after whom the intelligent Negro would refuse to eat, and that often the fair Negro is whiter to look at than the person who is "white" and boasting of his knowledge of "the Nigra" or denying him some Constitutional right.

We pride ourselves on our intelligence and yet we are completely ignorant about the meaning of our Jewish neighbors' religious observances, and we tend to laugh at the need for separate and new dishes for meat and milk foods at holiday time and through the year. And we think the food taboos are utterly absurd, but don't bother to find out the reasons back of the taboos. We sometimes are downright rude in our ridicule and denunciation of all churches or faiths other than our own particular brand. Protestant berates Catholic, Catholic berates Protestant, and both look askance at Jew. By the time this process is there has been little time or chance even to think about Buddhist, Moslem, Confucianist, or what-have-you!

Perhaps one of the greatest blots on our escutcheon in this country is the human indignity of lynching. Along with that go always the nicknames which cheapen, riots, and general personal injuries and destruction. In the last few months one Negro veteran (just discharged a few hours previously) had both eyes gorged out by a law enforcement officer in Carolina; another was beaten in the eye and on the forehead so severely by a bus driver that one of his eyes had to be removed. His only crime had been that he had asked to be let out at a certain place and when this point was passed and he raised question about it the driver was infuriated by his "crust"! In Georgia four (two women and two men) were lynched at one time. The women were originally scheduled to "witness" the killing of the men, evidently, but when one cried out in terror the name of one of the lynchers it was decided to kill the women also. In Minden, La., two cousins

were to be lynched and when they were left for dead the younger one, aged 17, (who had feigned death) ministered unto the older one until he died on his lap, and then he fled the scene, home, and shortly the town and section. What a healthy experience for a seventeen-year-old boy! A meat cleaner, guns, clubs, and sticks, had been used to kill the older one. These are only a few instances in the last few months. Multiply them by the years since. An interesting observation of present-day lynchings and attacks might be that considerable emphasis seems to be placed on the additional act of blinding the victim. Formerly castration and mutilation was a favorite past time! — The chain-gang and peonage (plain human slavery) go hand in hand with lynching.

Since I have referred to lynching several times I think that you should know something of what it sometimes involves. These things are presented to you, not to be sensational, but to let those of you to whom the word is purely academic realize the full meaning of it to 13,000,000 of your fellow Americans. Example No. 1:

1. Several years ago in Memphis, Tenn., a Negro man was to be "handled" by a mob for his charged crime. The public schools were closed for the day and parents and children (babes in arms too) appeared at the appointed place and time for the affair. The man had been shot, tied to the rear of a car, dragged through the streets and hung to a pole. There, where mumble-peg was played with his body as the target, and the flames consumed a great deal of him, lemonade and ice-cream were served to the onlookers. Then the charred body was cut down, souvenirs (fingers, sex organs, etc.) were taken, and the head severed. A group jumped into a car (taking the head with them), drove to the heart of the Negro business district and threw the head down in the midst of a few men standing on a corner talking.

2. It is often just as dangerous to know nothing of the whereabouts of a hunted one as it is to be the victim. Once a pregnant woman was in such a position and was victimized by the fury of the frustrated seekers. Her body was found crumpled on the ground (in the country), badly bruised and mutilated. There, hanging on an old fence near-by was the foetus, which the blood thirsty attackers had cut from the womb and left as a symbol of mob-justice.

Today much effort is made to link the traffickers in mob law with Fascist groups from other lands and to imply that that link is the real cause back of these travesties against humanity, but America cannot delude itself in this fashion by projecting the blame onto others. Many of the perpetrators of these acts have never heard the word fascist; they were about this work before we heard it either. Some day America cannot further evade its own responsibility and the final consequences of its own acts.

Then there is the attitude of condensation and patronage that we assume toward the members of any group that happens to be different. We are so ignorant of them as people instead of as groups, that we look on them as peculiar, and sometimes as curios. The latter is especially true when we observe one (too often our own acquaintance is limited to one or two) who to us seems intelligent, or more nerly "like us". Our struggle for existence is so great that any and every other person who is in the slightest degree different from us becomes a tremendous threat to us. He can be the Negro, "the foreigner", the Jew, the Catholic, the Mexican, the Nisei, the Jamaican, and so on; anyone except perhaps the American Indian — few seem to think of him as threat to anybody or anything. Yet, he was here long before the rest of us arrived!

"There must be a God somewhere!"

Even though the Spiritual does express a sort of questioning belief, we do know that there is "a God somewhere", in spite of the "trouble in the air". If there were not, millions of us, people of varying kinds of minorities, could not go on at all. The picture is very black but there are far more bright spots than there formerly were. More and more individuals, small groups, and large groups are at last being awakened from a sort of narcosis that has lasted far too long for "civilized" people. The individuals and groups are in the South, the North, the East, and the West alike, but the activities in some areas are naturally more handicapped than in others. The real seriousness of the problems just seems to be dawning upon them and they (in many instances) have been suddenly galvanized into action by fear of this force that has grown while they slept stuporously. Within the minority groups themselves there have, of course, long been present certain organizations and individuals, working steadily, laboriously, and furiously, toward the eradication of many of the evils of their living, but, alone, they could not do the whole job. Somehow they have kept on plugging away in the face of terrific odds. But we cannot be lulled into false security because of this newer interest and activity.

America must ultimately realize that she cannot take any role of real leadership in the affairs of the world until she cleans her own house first. Her conscience must tell her that she raped the souls of too many of her own people (especially those of color) for too long, and that she set about righting those wrong now; not "tomorrow". For "tomorrow" never comes except as today. She must know that if she is to have true respect and admiration of other countries, and to be able to influence their behavior in the family of nations — great and small — she must take more than nominal action at home to stamp out some of the same evils she fights against so vigorously elsewhere. And that America is you and me, and you, and you, and you!

Dr. Louis D. Newton, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, commenting on the revival of the Ku Klux Klan:

"The cross is not to be burned, but borne. It is not something to be exploited, but experienced. Its glory is not seen in the flames of hate, but only in the light of love. This business of using the cross as a symbol of intimidation will come to nothing now, as it has in the past. Meanwhile much damage may be done — damage to the community of economic, social, political, cultural and religious good will." (Common Council)

The Katyn Massacre

The Warsaw Underground paper "Polska" wrote: 'On August 21, 1945, in a Warsaw tavern, the Red Army Captain Dipkov of the 52nd Infantry, while in a state of drunkenness and quarreling with a Pole, exclaimed: "Such as you I've shot by the hundreds in Katyn".'

During the spring of 1940 the Russian NKVD in the Katyn forest, near Smolensk, killed some 5,000 Polish captive soldiers (German propaganda said that the Russians slew 11,000 Polish soldiers. The Russians try to pin this horrible massacre on the Germans.) 15,000 Polish soldiers who fell into Russians hands are not yet accounted for.

Panhandler: "Bud, will you give me a dime for a cup of coffee?"

Irate Man: "You've got a lot of nerve, asking for money in the street."

Panhandler: "What do you want me to do — open an office?"

Drunkard: Victim of bottle fatigue.

Finny's - Funnies

Private: "Here, hold my gun a minute, will you?"

Officer: "Hey, I'm a lieutenant."

Private: "That's all right. I'll trust you."

Lady Visitor: "I want to see the captain of this ship."

Sailor: "Why, he's forward."

Lady Visitor: "I'm not afraid. I'm used to men."

Corporal: "I'm glad to see you again. I felt sure you were dead."

Sergeant: "What made you think that?"

Corporal: "Well, I've heard several people speaking well of you lately."

Alcohol is good for preserving everything but secrets.

A gal married more than twice is not a home body but a busy body.

"Are you a Chesterfield or a Camel girl?"

Strained silence.

"Do you walk a mile or do you satisfy?"

Many a six footer is not only a tall man but a jerk as well.

Women are wizards when it comes to facts and figures, and those with best figures learn the facts much quicker.

WAC: "Do you know what they say about me?"

G-I: Sure, that's why I'm here.

District Attorney: "You say that when you visited the nudist camp on the night of the murder you didn't do a thing. Do you realize you are under oath?"

Old Man (witness): "Yes, and do you realize I'm over eighty?"

Insurance Adjuster: "But my dear man, the fact that her father came home unexpected doesn't make it an accident."

Bashful boy: "May I kiss your hand?"

Gal: "Whatsa matter, is my mouth dirty?"

The old-fashioned girl would take two drinks and go out like a light. The modern girl takes two drinks and out goes the light.

You have all heard the story about the two privates in Africa who were puzzled over a dead animal they found by the roadside. "It has two stripes", said one. "That settles it", said the other. "It's either a skunk or a corporal."

"How did the wedding go?" asked the preacher's wife.

"Fine, my dear, until I asked if the bride would 'obey', and she said: 'Do you think I'm crazy?' — and the groom, who was in a sort of a daze, mumbled: 'I do'. Then things began to happen."

Patient in Hospital: "Doctor, do you think I should go to a warmer climate?"

Doctor: "Well, that's what I'm trying to prevent."

He: — "Gee, I miss the old cuspidor since it's gone!"

She: — "You missed it before. That's why it's gone!"